

(3) Remarks

Claims 1-12 are now present in the application.

No claims have been added or canceled, but the dependencies of claims 5 and 7 – 11 have been amended.

Telephone Interview

At the outset, applicant and his representative would like to thank the examiner for the courtesy of the interview conducted on September 23, 2009. The arguments presented below are the substance of those presented during the interview. No agreement was reached as to claim language, but distinctions between the present invention and the sole cited reference were pointed out.

Specification Objection – 37 CFR 1.77(b)

The examiner objected to the specification for lacking suggested headings; however, applicant wishes to defer amendment until allowable subject matter is indicated.

Claim Objections – 37 CFR 1.75(c)

The examiner objected to claims 5-11 as being in improper form due to the presence of multiple dependent claims dependent on multiple dependent claims. The claims have been amended to eliminate this informality, and examination of all claims is now in order.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 1 through 4 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 4,936,709 to Kimura.

The Office Action states that Kimura '709 discloses all of the limitations of the claimed method at column 6, line 59 through column 7, line 30. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It will be recalled that the invention provides a method for determining the propulsion force, its eccentricity in relation to the neutral axis and/or the advance direction of a series of pipe elements, wherein a pressing device applies force to the pipe elements and the faces of fluid-filled expansion elements arranged in the joints between the pipe elements. The invention enables controlling the propulsion force, including its eccentricity and advance direction. The invention enables controlling the

In contrast to the invention, no method is disclosed by Kimura for determining the propulsion force, its eccentricity and/or the advance direction on advance of pipe elements.

Moreover, Kimura has no fluid-filled expansion elements arranged in the joints of the pipeline, but the expansion members described there (e.g., 50) function to apply force between the propulsion shaft and the inside wall of the pipe.

Importantly, Kimura provides no measurement of fluid pressure and/or deformation of the joints for the purpose of calculating the propulsion force and its eccentricity.

While no rejection has been made under 35 USC §103, it is clear that a person skilled in the art would not find any guidance for modifying the apparatus disclosed in Kimura in order to obtain the apparatus according to the invention.

Applicant has endeavored to place the application in condition for allowance, but if for any reason the examiner sees need for formal changes, she is invited to call the undersigned. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of all claims are believed in order and are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Thaddius J. Carvis', written over a horizontal line.

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